WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for managing extended neighbor cells of a mobile terminal, comprising the steps of:

5   a) performing initial power measurement when the mobile terminal is turned on;

b) detecting and storing information on carrier lists of BCCH (Broadcast Control Channel) of a different PLMN (Public Land Mobile Network) from first power lists obtained through the initial power measurement, , and entering an idle mode;

c) determining, after starting HPLMN (Home Public Land Mobile Network) rescan 10 timer in the idle mode, if the HPLMN rescan timer is terminated;

d) restarting the HPLMN rescan timer to perform first power measurement when it is determined that the HPLMN rescan timer is terminated;

e) detecting and synchronizing frequencies excluding information on present holding carrier lists of BCCH of the different PLMN from second power lists obtained through the 15 first power measurement performed after the HPLMN rescan timer is restarted;

f) determining if swappable PLMNs are present, from signals of the synchronized frequencies;

g) determining if the swappable PLMNs are HPLMNs after swapping PLMNs when the swappable PLMNs are present, and returning to step d) when the swappable PLMNs are 20 not present; and

h) stopping the HPLMN rescan timer when the swappable PLMNs are the HPLMNs, and returning to step d) when the swappable PLMNs are not the HPLMNs.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step c) comprises the sub-steps of:

25   c-1) determining if a present state satisfies start conditions of the HPLMN rescan timer;

c-2) determining if the HPLMN rescan timer is terminated after the HPLMN rescan timer is started when the present state satisfies the start conditions, and terminating operation when the present state does not satisfy the start conditions.

30